



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-38

April 15, 2021

Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 20.00, Steam Distribution Companies.

On April 15, 2021, the Department of Public Utilities ("Department"), issued an Order instituting a rulemaking proceeding, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 20.00, "Steam Distribution Companies." The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 21-38.

The Department proposes changes to clarify certain provisions, ensure consistency, correct minor errors, update references, and delete outdated, duplicative, or unnecessary information. Further, the Department proposes to add new provisions to promote safety and ensure regulatory compliance, including requirements to address the following: applying for exceptions from the provisions of 220 CMR 20.00; maintaining an accurate aging report of all major steam piping and facility components; maintaining condition assessments and steam distribution integrity management plans; and conducting continuous system efficiency and public safety surveys. The Department will consider other relevant changes to the regulation to promote safety and ensure regulatory compliance.

Because of the COVID-19 state of emergency issued by Governor Baker on March 10, 2020, and certain ongoing restrictions and safety measures relating to in-person events, the Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the rulemaking. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Thursday, June 3, 2021**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://zoom.us/j/98529686539>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at **1 (312) 626-6799** (not toll free) and then enter ID# 98529686539. If you anticipate providing comments during the public hearing, please send an email by **Thursday, May 27, 2021**, to Laurie.E.Weisman@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address, or leave a voicemail message by **Thursday, May 27, 2021**, at (617) 305-3721 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting may also submit written comments to the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, May 27, 2021**. Written reply comments must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 10, 2021**. Written comments and reply comments shall be limited to a maximum of ten one-sided, double-spaced, typewritten pages.

At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies because of the state of emergency and ongoing limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parties must retain the original paper version, and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and Laurie.E.Weisman@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-38); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "21-38") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

At this time, documents filed in this proceeding will not be available for public viewing at the Department because of the state of emergency. All documents, pleadings, or filings submitted to or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as practicable. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at Laurie.E.Weisman@mass.gov or (617) 305-3721.

By Order of the Department,

/s/
Mark D. Marini, Secretary